

To: Chavez, Luke[Chavez.Luke@epa.gov]; Cristiano, Gina[Cristiano.Gina@epa.gov]; Atencio, Kathie[Atencio.Kathie@epa.gov]
From: Nakatsu, Jason
Sent: Thur 8/13/2015 1:49:14 PM
Subject: FW: Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River - Health & Safety Training, and Medical Surveillance

The guts of it are on the last email from Brian but looks like we need to send ALL employees through prescreening... We NEED to discuss this locally and form a response back through our different chains... a little troublesome IMO.

From: Kovak, Brian
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 7:37 AM
To: Nakatsu, Jason
Cc: Krueger, Roy; Gomez, Kendra; Woodlee, Jeff; Beasley, Craig; Wynn, David; Greenberg, Marc
Subject: Re: Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River - Health & Safety Training, and Medical Surveillance

After reviewing our RSC procedures and discussions with David Wynn, I highly recommend that we require that all EPA employees being deployed to work in support of an Emergency Response either already be enrolled in our Occupational Medical Surveillance Program and medically cleared for field work, or if not, they undergo an expedited medical clearance through FOH as setup under our RSC program.

Once an EPA employee leaves the regional office to participate in an Incident Management Team in the field, we no longer have control over their work activities. In a fast paced ER situation, they can be reassigned on site or asked to assist in other duties or field work locations by the Incident Commander or their Section Chief in support of the ER mission. Therefore, they need to have a medical clearance. We have had situations during past ERs with non-field employees having underlying medical conditions, stress issues and being not physically or medically suited for the high stress environment and demands of working during in an IMT during an ER. The expedited medical clearance will help assure we are taking the necessary steps to protect our employees prior to deploying them.

During DeepWater Horizon, BP hired locals to work on the oil spill clean-up with no medical screening. I am aware of 3-4 fatalities that occurred with these workers from off hour heart attacks and strokes most likely due to the stress and rigors of working the long 14 hour days under adverse conditions. We should not and can not place our employees in a similar situation. I will work with SHEMD and FOH to get the expedited medical clearance streamlined and setup quickly across the regions as needed. Inform your senior managers of the need to have this

program implemented prior to deploying your staff to the field.

Thanks,

Brian

Brian Kovak

Safety, Health and Environmental Management Official

Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

908-202-9848

On Aug 12, 2015, at 7:32 PM, Nakatsu, Jason <Nakatsu.Jason@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks Roy!

From: Krueger, Roy

Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 5:24 P

To: Nakatsu, Jason; Gomez, Kendra; EOC Safety Officer; Woodlee, Jeff

Cc: EOC_Deputy_Manager,; Beasley, Craig; EOC Documentation; EOC_Manager,; Gibson, Dave; Wilson, Howard; Kovak, Brian

Subject: RE: Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River - Health & Safety Training, and Medical Surveillance

All,

In support of R6 we provided exactly what was requested. Current hazwoper field trained staff for anyone deployed. Where medical was required we provided people that met that requirement (sampling). Those doing community outreach are trained but may or may not have medical. I heard from my Regional WERG folks that rather than observing the sampling they will actually be doing the sampling. I'm not sure how true that is.

I provided a list of everyone we are deploying and what qualifications they have including respirator qualification to Kendra and Jason. We have established limited Logistics and Finance Sections in our Region to coordinate getting these resources sent to make sure. Any non-field people would not need medical in my opinion.

It is interesting that I had a couple of people that could have gone but needed the medical screening and when I contacted FOH the soonest we could get them would be in about 9 or 10 days. Rather than try and work around this we decided to go to our next people on our list. This situation disturbs me. If we can get people screened for an emergency deployment in a reasonable amount of time then we should discontinue this as an option since it gives false expectations. I sent my concerns to David Wynn and Josh McDonald. If FOH can't provide this service can they send out the medical screenings to a local occupational health clinic? If not, then I will look at changing employees in the OMSP from episodic to a regular scheduled frequency and will no longer use the screen program. This is unfortunate since I thought it worked really well for the Joplin Tornado in 2011.

Let me know if I can be of help.

Roy

From: Nakatsu, Jason
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 5:06 PM
To: Gomez, Kendra; EOC Safety Officer; Woodlee, Jeff; Krueger, Roy
Cc: EOC_Deputy_Manager,; Beasley, Craig; EOC Documentation; EOC_Manager,; Gibson, Dave; Wilson, Howard
Subject: RE: Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River - Health & Safety Training, and Medical Surveillance

R8 is ok and we are good with field staff in training and OMSP as our folks know better. Im talking about non field office staff and in the original email it states "all employees"...

From: Gomez, Kendra
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 3:46 PM
To: Nakatsu, Jason; EOC Safety Officer; Woodlee, Jeff; Krueger, Roy
Cc: EOC_Deputy_Manager,; Beasley, Craig; EOC Documentation; EOC_Manager,; Gibson, Dave; Wilson, Howard
Subject: RE: Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River - Health & Safety Training, and Medical Surveillance

Field staff.

From: Nakatsu, Jason
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 4:41 PM
To: Gomez, Kendra; EOC Safety Officer; Woodlee, Jeff; Krueger, Roy
Cc: EOC_Deputy_Manager,; Beasley, Craig; EOC Documentation; EOC_Manager,; Gibson, Dave; Wilson, Howard
Subject: RE: Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River - Health & Safety Training, and Medical Surveillance

Were these folks field staff or office staff?

From: Gomez, Kendra
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 3:17 PM
To: Nakatsu, Jason; EOC Safety Officer; Woodlee, Jeff; Krueger, Roy
Cc: EOC_Deputy_Manager,; Beasley, Craig; EOC Documentation; EOC_Manager,; Gibson, Dave; Wilson, Howard
Subject: RE: Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River - Health & Safety Training, and Medical Surveillance

The same situation happened to me. People were deployed on Saturday and I wasn't notified until Monday. I've been trying to get a current listing of R6 personnel deployed in support of the Gold King Mine spill, and I haven't been provided one. I've escalated this up to my Senior Management. I'm basically vetting people based upon financial Sit Reps.

I know of two R6 employees who do not meet their H&S requirements. When I found out on Monday that these employees deployed Saturday, I vetted them and determined they were not cleared for deployment. I informed the REOC via email that they need to be returned to the Regional Office. Nothing has been done to return them to the RO.

Kendra C. Gomez

Kendra C. Gomez

R6 Health & Safety Manager

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From: Nakatsu, Jason

Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 3:58 PM

To: Gomez, Kendra; EOC Safety Officer; Woodlee, Jeff; Krueger, Roy

Cc: EOC_Deputy_Manager,; Beasley, Craig; EOC Documentation; EOC_Manager,; Gibson, Dave; Wilson, Howard

Subject: RE: Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River - Health & Safety Training, and Medical Surveillance

Kendra,

We are doing the same per their routine job functions and depending on the type of work being done they need different field H&S training. What I meant by my email was to make it clear that positions such as Finance section chief or an attorney called out to look at data do not need medical surveillance per their routine job function. The other interesting piece is that folk were deployed prior to me being called or informed of the IMT stand up.

From: Gomez, Kendra

Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 1:48 PM

To: Nakatsu, Jason; EOC Safety Officer; Woodlee, Jeff; Krueger, Roy

Cc: EOC_Deputy_Manager,; Beasley, Craig; EOC Documentation; EOC_Manager,; Gibson, Dave; Wilson, Howard

Subject: RE: Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River - Health & Safety Training, and Medical Surveillance

Here in Region 6, I'm mandating that all employees either have medical surveillance (due to their routine job functions) or they received a pre-screening exam by FOH. You are right, they do not have medical surveillance, but if they don't, they at least need to have a pre-

screening exam by FOH prior to deployment. Also, all R6 personnel responding to field activities, must have, at a minimum, the 24hr EPA H&S training available through Skillport, depending upon the type of work to be done. Most of my employees are required to have HAZWOPER due to the fact that they are conducting activities under the scope of 29 CFR 1910.120.

Kendra C. Gomez

Kendra C. Gomez

R6 Health & Safety Manager

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From: Nakatsu, Jason

Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 1:30 PM

To: EOC Safety Officer; Gomez, Kendra; Woodlee, Jeff; Krueger, Roy

Cc: EOC_Deputy_Manager,; Beasley, Craig; EOC Documentation; EOC_Manager,; Gibson, Dave; Wilson, Howard

Subject: RE: Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River - Health & Safety Training, and Medical Surveillance

David,

We can discuss at a later point in time but for R8 not ALL of the responders need to have medical surveillance and H&S training.

From: Wynn, David **On Behalf Of** EOC Safety Officer
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 11:57 AM
To: Nakatsu, Jason; Gomez, Kendra; Woodlee, Jeff; Krueger, Roy
Cc: EOC_Deputy_Manager;; Beasley, Craig; EOC Documentation; EOC_Manager,
Subject: Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River - Health & Safety Training, and Medical Surveillance

SHEMP managers,

Thank you for your efforts!

This is a reminder that all employees who are responding must have completed their H&S training requirements and be enrolled in medical surveillance, if required. If you are having any difficulty fulfilling these requirements, please advise.

Thanks,

David Wynn, CIH, CSP, CHMM, CSHM, CET, ARM

HQ EOC Safety

(202) 250-8908